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Message Text

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46
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-05 AID-05

A-01 OC-05 OMB-01 OPR-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SY-05

USSS-00 CU-04 /081 W
---------- 031909
O R 131358Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9120
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
AMCONSULATE MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5412

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT CO
SUBJ: PARTIAL STATE OF SIEGE DECLARED IN COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 5241

1. IN A SURPRISE MOVE LATE JUNE 12, PRESIDENT LOPEZ DECREED A STATE OF SIEGE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ANTIOQUIA (MEDELLIN), ATLANTICO (BARRANQUILLA) AND VALLE (CALI). THE PARTIAL STATE OF SIEGE CAME AFTER VIOLENT DISTURTQNCES IN CALI LATE JUNE 12, IN WHICH SEVERAL POLICEMEN AND STUDENTS WERE INJURED. DISTURBANCES ALSO OCCURRED IN CIENAGA (MAGDALENA) FOR THE SECOND DAY. CALI HAD BEEN QUIET DURING THE 3-DAY PERIOD OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS JUNE 9-11.

2. IN ISSUING THE DECREE, PRESIDENT LOPEZ CITED AS REASONS FOR IMPOSING A STATE OF SIEGE IN THE THREE DEPARTMENTS, "DISTUR-BANCES OF THE PUBLIC ORDER DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS AS WELL AS AT PRESENT IN VARIOUS AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IN WHICH INJURIES OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRED; AN
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INCREASE IN THE DISTURBANCES DURING THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS IN

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THE THREE DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING BLOCKADING STREETS, STONING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS, BURNING BUILDINGS AND CARS, STREET DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH INCITE THE VIOLENT SUBVERSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND OVERTHROW OF LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY, ATTACKS AGAINST MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL WITH CONSEQUENT GRAVE INJURIES IN CALI, AND POLITICAL TENSION IN THE CITIES OF CAICEDONIA AND VERSALLES." (A LIBERAL PARTY POLITICAL LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED JUNE 11 IN CAICEDONIA.)

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE STATE OF SIEGE CAUGHT THE GOVERNOR OF ATLANTICO BY SURPRISE. BARRANQUILLA HAD BEEN FREE OF DISTURBANCES DURING JUNE 11 AND 12, AS WAS MEDELLIN IN ANTIOQUIA. CIENAGA, IN WHICH DISTURBANCES ERUPTED JUNE 11 AND 12 IS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MAGDALENA, NEAR SANTA MARTA, AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE STATE OF SIEGE. HOWEVER, MIN OF GOVERNMENT CORNELIO REYES TOLD THE PRESS THAT "THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE STAGE OF SIEGE MIGHT BE EXTENDED DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY CANNOT BE DISCARDED."

4. THE NATIONAL POPULAR ALLIANCE (ANAPO) PARTY HAS SCHEDULED A DEMONSTRATION IN BOGOTA JUNE 13 TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF ANAPO. PARTY LEADER MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO DIAZ HAS SAID THE DEMONSTRATION WILL BE HELD WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A STATE OF SIEGE. GOC AUTHORITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE AGAINST VIOLENCE.
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TAGS: PINT, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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